

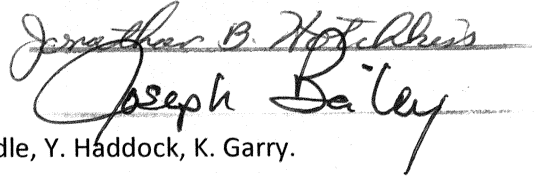
Town of Middleton
Board of Selectmen Budget Deliberative
February 10, 2014

Approved By
Board of Selectmen

Called to order at 7:00 p.m.

BOS Members Present: T. Laughy, J. Hotchkiss, J. Bailey,

BC Members Present: J. Hotchkiss, J. Dixon-Haney, M. Stevens, S. Bruedle, Y. Haddock, K. Garry.



BUDGET

- Started with the budget line by line by department.
- 4130-BOS suggested salary increases by 2%. The only discrepancies in the BC and BOS were the new equipment.
- BC zeroed out the donation line.
- 4140- Voting machine amount is for updates. BC reduced the Restoration of Records line by \$800.00.
- 4149-no comments
- 4150-Treasure salary was increased after town meeting last year approximately 30% due to having to come in more often. BC reduced Recordings at Registry.
- 4152-no comments
- 4153-no comments
- 4155-Question on Health Insurance increase, police retirement, workman's comp. Increases were due to more employees taking the health insurance coverage. Retirement, workman's comp were over expended due to increases mid-year. Ken Gerry asked if we had a breakdown by department for insurance. Laura tried to run a report through the Sage program but was unsuccessful. It can be done manually.
- 4191-Janet Kalar questions who the Planning Board clerk currently is and if we have always had one.
- 4193-Increases due to possible new buildings in town. BOS and BC agree.
- 4194-S. Kimball questions Highway repair line was over expended due to the new highway roof. K. Buzard questions the windows being open during the day at the Municipal Building. There are plans to look at heating system this coming year.
- 4196-no comments
- 4210-Question on how many full time officers the town has. Answer was 4 full times, 6 part times. This is the only department the BC did not recommend salary raises. This is because last year they gave themselves 5% raises with the money they were given for extra equipment. BC assumes that when the townspeople voted, that the Police Dept. would spend the extra on the needed items and not additional raises. J. Coskie questioned others that got an additional raise last year, they were the SSBK and the Treasurer, and this was done because if you look around to someone that does the same job our employees were underpaid. R. Mains states that it has never been done before where employees got raises after town meeting. J.Kalar states all raises should be made known to the public even if it is done at a BOS meeting. Highway did not get a bonus this year they received longevity. M. Stevens goes back to stating that last year all employees received the 3% and the police received 5% so the BC feels that this year when employees are receiving the 2% that the Police should not get any. S. Morrill brings up instead of looking at raises look at retention. It could cost more to bring in new officers than keeping the ones you have.

- 4215-Question was explained what EMS gear is.....S. Morrill states its protective clothing, coats etc. Duty salary is for the EMS coverage. J. Coskie asked how many qualified EMS staff do we currently have, S. Morrill states if we included the cross trained, we are at 6 right now with a couple applications pending. T. Laughy questioned how much money the ambulance brought in last year. L. Parker answered that total since 2010 should be approximately \$33,000.
- 4220- Question on what member expense is, T. Laughy answers their annual stipend. J. Kalar asked why radio repairs increased, S. Morrill states we need to replace the portable radio batteries. S. Morrill would like to discuss the changes made to the budget. He questioned the uniform line, and member expense line. The BC did not increase Chief salary by 2% because he did not request it. Firefighting equipment line was decreased, he would like to see it changed to \$10950.00, BOS agreed with change. BC raised it to 10,000. Uniforms line was also decreased, BC decreased the line because they believed the dress uniforms were included. S. Morrill states that he is trying to do some recruiting and if so he would need additional gear for the new members. BOS changed the uniform line to \$6500.00 not for Class A Uniforms but for turn-out gear. BC changed the uniform line to \$6000.00. The additional member expense was to have someone available to write warrants and clean the station. This was not discussed with the Fire Warden. Firefighters have to be deputy wardens in order to write permits. Currently there are only two deputy wardens right now. Question was if the Warden was a member of the Fire Department. S. Morrill says yes, but the Warden does not get a stipend. K. Garry states how the budget committee is feeling uneasy when departments say they need supplies and then the money is spent other places, not where it was needed, leaving that uneasy feeling with the BC. Nothing against the Fire Department just generally speaking of past issues. Hoses did past inspection last year, but new hoses are needed now. J. Coskie asked if there have been checks and balances set in place. T. Laughy states purchase order required prior to all expenditures over \$250.00. Janet Hotchkiss asked what does a full set of FF gear cost. One set cost about \$3000.00 and has the shelf life of about 10 years. There have been three in town fires last year. S. Morrill brought up rumors that the Fire Dept. is looking to get rid of the ambulance; he advises that is not true.
- 4240-Code enforcement revenue totally off sets the expenditures.
- 4290-no comments
- 4299- no comments
- 4311-Rick's salary is over due to longevity pay. Question brought forward that the salt line is over budget. Never can guess on how much salt will be needed.
- 4319- School diesel the BOS increased. We did not receive the budgeted amount from the School Board. School is on a different year. Amount will stay what it is.
- 4323-Question asked if we made money on recycling. \$1445.00 was received.
- 4414-Currently we do not have an AC officer. Animal issues are being handled by PD.
- 4415-Discussion was held regarding all the individual non-profit organizations that we donate too. J. Haney spoke regarding Community Legal Services. Last year they were not fully operational so they did not take the donation. They plan on requesting the money this year. J. Mullen asked if the funds help service the residents of Middleton. Janet Hotchkiss spoke about how the services are given. J. Mullen just wants to reassure that Middleton residents are benefitting from these donations. The BOS put in what each organization request, if there is no request, there is no amount. There is also times where we have to deny the request. C. Kimball, states how sometimes we need to donate money not for a specific service but in case there is the need. Need to add the Coast line to the Budget form, the amount is on the wrong line. Safe Place should be deleted.

- 4444-J. Coskie questioned the salary for Welfare director when she is difficult to reach. BC increased the welfare line because they feel with the economy there should be more families that could benefit from those funds. There are guidelines that need to be followed to qualify for Welfare.
- 4520-no comments
- 4619-K. Buzard questions why her budget was reduced by \$10.00. It was in error.
- 4711-no comments
- 4721-no comments
- 4900- Warrants articles
- 7100-no comments
- 8100-no comments

Warrant Articles

- No. 7- Should be \$150,000.00
- No.8- BC does not recommend
- No.9-BC does not Recommend
- No.10-If we repair loader, how long will it last. We can get a trade-in value of approximately \$30,000. Discussion on the warrant article having the specific amount of the trade-in included in the article. BC could not vote on this article till today at 6 PM due to not having the figures. Marcia made calls to get other committee members votes. The figures can be changes at town meeting.
- No.11-BC does not recommend
- No.12- Talk about combining 12 & 13 to make it easier to understand
- No.13-BC does not recommend
- No.14-Recommended by both
- No.15-Questions regarding why BC does not recommend. J. Mullen speaks regarding the weed removal that needs to be done in detail.
- No.16-Recommended by both
- No. 17- Recommended by both
- No.18-Recommended by both
- NO.19-Recommended by both
- No. 20-Question on when we set up a recreation department. Discussion on if you can set up a Recreation Committee/Department Revolving Fund, if fund is created you cannot accept donations to this fund. J. Bailey moved to strike Article 20.
- No. 21-
- No. 22-Amendment #1. This Amendment needs to go on the ballot.
- No.23-C. Kimball spoke regarding the grant for the Old Town Hall Renovations. She is asking for \$59,000 to start the matching grant process. BC recommended \$30,000. BOS recommended \$59,000.

Terri Laughy made a motion to adjourn @10:25 PM, J. Hotchkiss seconds, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Laura Parker, BOS Secretary